(d) if so, what were the other main points mentioned in their demands?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any unanimous demand, made by-State-run utilities along with private sector players regarding immediate steps to simplify land acquisitions and securing environmental and forest clearance. However, during various meetings with the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), State utilities as well as Independent Power Producers (IPPs) have expressed their concerns about problems faced in land acquisition and getting environmental/forest clearances. In case of forest clearance, the Project Developing Authorities have indicated that getting the requisite clearances takes long time.

(c) and (d) Other issues raised by the IPPs relate to non-availability of hydrological data, lack of power evacuation system, etc. Some IPPs have also raised the issue of non-availability of power at the construction stage and lack of infrastructural facilities, like road-connectivity and communication-system.

Grid and Off-grid solar power

454. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved the setting up of a 1,100 MW grid solar power and 200 MW off-grid solar application utilizing both solar, thermal and photovoltaic technologies in the first phase of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission; and

(b) whether in addition, the Mission wilt also focus on R&D and Human resource Development to develop and strengthen Indian skills and to enhance indigenous content to make the Mission sustainable?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved the target for the first phase of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission, to set up 1,100 MW of grid connected solar plants, which includes 100 MW capacity plants to be set up as rooftop and small solar power plants. In addition, 200 MW capacity equivalent off-grid solar applications and 7 million square metre solar thermal collector area are also proposed in the first phase of the Mission, till March 2013. The Mission also provides for support to research and development in solar energy technologies and manpower development through training, fellowships and education about solar energy technologies and applications.

National policy on climate change

*455. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to make a national policy on climate change;